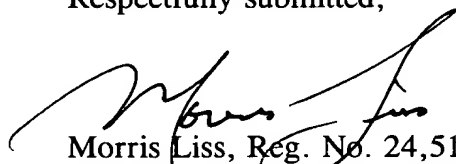


REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Claim 3 has been amended to eliminate its multiple dependency and claim 11 has been added which is the recitation of claim 3 dependent from claim 2. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 6/8/01

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Abstract Of The Disclosure

A biodegradable polymer having the composition from 8 to 80% by weight of a starch modified to include an hydroxalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride for a dicarboxylic acid, preferably hydroxypropylated high amylose starch, from 0 to 87.9% of starch, from 4 to 11% by weight of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinylalcohol which have a melting point compatible with the molten state of the starch components, from 0 to 20% by weight of a polyol plasticizer, preferably glycol, from 0.1 to 1.5% by weight of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid or salt, preferably stearic acid, and 0 to 12% added water. The polymers are suitable as biodegradable rigid sheet or flexible film materials for use in packaging foodstuffs.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein component c) is a polyvinyl alcohol component.